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PHOENIX

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07 | 02 | 09

Presidential Historian Visits GSU



Presidential historian Michael Beschloss at the podium in GSU's Sherman Hall.

By Sarah Silhan
Editor

On June 5, 2009, Presidential Historian Michael Beschloss visited GSU to give a 90-minute presentation on his experiences. Given as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series, Beschloss spoke with the audience in a very crowded Sherman Hall.

Speaking to an audience which ranged in age from 10 or 11 to the elderly, Beschloss said he was honored "to be back home," explaining that he grew up in nearby Flossmoor, Ill. The author of *Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, 1789-1989*, Beschloss is considered to be an expert on American Presidential history. He is also a regular contributor to the PBS series, "The News Hour."

The lecture began with an introduction from GSU President Elaine Maimon. She explained that Beschloss has a close connection to GSU, already having earned an honorary degree from the university, and that sometimes, she is able to see connections between presidents of the United States and her own position at GSU.

"A University President – though on a much smaller scope – faces challenges which are very similar to a U.S. President. If you're doing your job, you won't be universally loved – at least not until you're gone," Maimon joked.

Maimon then took a front-row seat, along with other members of the board and a few other distinguished guests, to hear Beschloss speak of his experiences as a historian.



Beschloss signs a book after his lecture for student Edgar Casillas who graduated on Saturday and gave the student commencement speech. GSU President Elaine Maimon is sitting next to Beschloss.

Beschloss Photos by
Lindsay Gladstone

Funny and lighthearted, the lecture gave all in attendance a glimpse into the sometimes secret lives of past American presidents.

Beschloss began by saying that his interest in presidential history began a long time ago with two major events. The first was in his first-grade classroom, when his teacher held a mock election for president. Being that his parents were Republicans, he voted for Richard Nixon.

Beschloss then went on to explain that his first-grade teacher had since passed away, but was pleased to see her husband and daughter at the lecture. Both stood and were recognized with a round of applause before Beschloss continued.

He then told of how his background in the Midwest had a profound effect on his desire to learn more about the American leaders. In the fall of 1960, he was a small child – only four years old – but recalled the experience of seeing Richard Nixon's motorcade pass by on a trip through Illinois. It was an election year and Nixon would later lose to John F. Kennedy in November.

Beschloss didn't see President Nixon again until 1992, when the two met for lunch in New Jersey. He mentioned seeing the motorcade so many years ago, but jokingly admitted during his lecture that bringing up Nixon's loss to Kennedy wasn't probably "one of his best ideas."

In addition to his childhood memories of Nixon, Beschloss also recalled visiting Springfield as a child and learning about Abraham Lincoln. He recalled thinking as a child that "meeting a president would be about as likely as meeting the Man in the Moon" and that he feels honored that his life has allowed him such wonderful opportunities to learn about the men who ran our nation.

Beschloss spoke of our current political state in America and highlighted that WHO is President matters greatly to the American people, even though many cynics disagree and say that life doesn't change simply

because of who holds a political office. To help

illustrate his point, Beschloss spoke of the inception of community colleges.

"Community colleges and care for Veterans post WWII was influenced by the work of Harry Truman, a man who was too poor to receive a college education" he explained. "Schools like GSU came to be because a president saw a need for affordable education and did something to bring it to the American people."

In speaking about education, Beschloss spoke about President Lincoln, known for having only a little more than a year's worth of formal education. But despite this, Lincoln, like Truman, went on to be very successful. Lincoln paved the way for colleges as well by creating land grants for schools to be built.

While Beschloss had dozens of stories which were funny, he also shared his experiences with the sadder side of politics. He explained that he often has access to documents or historical pieces which are not open to public viewing. Frequently, Beschloss has been allowed to read diaries or letters written by the presidents, and on one occasion, was allowed to listen to cassette tapes recorded immediately following President Kennedy's assassination in 1963.

During the flight from Dallas, where the President had been shot, back to Washington, D.C., Lyndon Johnson spoke with the flight crew and the conversations were taped. Beschloss was able to hear these tapes and explained that the experience gave him the unique opportunity to hear the words of a man who was thrown into the Presidency headfirst following the murder of one of America's best-loved presidents.

"At the time, there was talk that the assassination may have been the beginning of attacks on the U.S. by the Soviets," Beschloss explained. "To hear those conversations was amazing."

See 'Beschloss' page 3

GSU Student Publishes
First Book

Page 3

Nursing Prof, Vietnam Vet
Honored at GSU

Page 4

Book & Music Reviews

Pages 5 & 7

YOUR CAMPUS

2

07 | 02 | 09



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We welcome articles, suggestions, photos, commentary, cartoons, and letters to the editor on issues that concern you or the greater GSU population.

We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, legality, and interest to our GSU readership.

All submissions should be signed, and include the student, faculty, or staff member's ID number, department, and phone number.

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A Rough Run for American Pop Culture



By Sarah Silhan
Editor

It's been a rough couple of weeks for Hollywood and the music world. With the loss of Ed McMahon, Farrah Fawcet and most recently, Michael Jackson, Americans seem to be completely fixated on American pop culture.

Growing up in the eighties, it's impossible not to be somewhat moved by the death of the King of Pop. I remember being a kid in my basement, dancing like a fool to the "Thriller" album with my friends. In fact, we built our own drum set out of household junk just so we could play along and try to moonwalk across the tile floor.

Though you'd have had to be living under a rock for the past 30 years to not remember the red jacket, the silver glove or the "space-inspired" clothing, I was surprised to see many Facebook postings and MySpace blogs which focused on "Wacko Jacko" or the past years of Jackson's life – no doubt, he had his strange tendencies and often was propelled into the media for putting himself in awkward situations. (We all remember photos of him dangling his infant son over a balcony or showing up to court appearances in a suit jacket and printed pajama pants.)

But I don't think that means that Jackson's talent or contributions to the music industry were any less important. Since he was a child, Jackson has had enormous influence on rock and roll and American pop. There will more than likely never be another like him.

Though youngsters in the music industry like Justin Timberlake may have taken a note or two from Jackson's dance style, only M.J. will live on as the real King of Pop.

If that weren't enough, though it was a tad before my time, many of you grew up in the seventies, when Farrah Fawcet posters were on every guy's locker, slapped up in every muscle-man's gym and used as the example of a

great haircut in virtually every lady's hair salon east of the Pacific.

Most recently, Fawcet became less known for her role as one of Charlie's Angels, and more famous for her bouts with cancer. Traveling to Europe for painful and invasive surgeries on more than one occasion, Fawcet fought a hard-hitting fight with her disease. But ultimately, as happens to so many, the cancer won and Fawcet passed away at age 62.

Then there's Ed McMahon: comedian, gameshow host, announcer, and television personality for decades. While my parents know him for his work with Johnny Carson on *The Tonight Show*, my generation probably knows him more for his work hosting the Labor Day telethon and announcing which float was coming down the street during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

It's amazing how the loss of these people can touch us as a nation. How is it that on a walk through the cafeteria, I overhear talk about Jackson, Fawcet or McMahon, but rarely hear discussion of the brutality in Iran or the financial bailouts here in America?

Maybe it's because we're too disconnected to the "big news items." We think the bailouts won't affect us, the brutality in Iran is "not our problem." But the deaths of Hollywood celebrities move us to discussion and maybe even tears.

I'm not sure what this says about us as a people. Are our priorities messed up? Yeah, I would say that's accurate. Do we focus on trivial matters instead of what's really important? I'd say that's true, too.

But sometimes I think it's okay to forget about the big issues and just focus on the things that tug at our heartstrings. Though we probably didn't actually KNOW Jackson, Fawcet or McMahon personally, we feel in some strange way like they were a part of our lives.

And no matter what anyone says, it's okay to mourn those losses and leave the "big issues" for another day. Michael, Farrah and Ed – you'll be missed.

Family Development Center Enrolling for Fall Pre-K

GSU Public Relations Department

The Family Development Center (FDC), at Governors State University, is now accepting enrollment in its pre-kindergarten program for three, four, and five year olds for September 2009.

The FDC is a unique, state-of-the-art facility, which is full of color and light. Students experience a wide variety of meaningful literacy activities ranging from morning meetings to enjoying music and stories, drama, and movement activities.

Children also have gym or atrium time where large motor and social interaction skills are developed through sand and water play. Special activities vary from studio time to work with a variety of materials and on special projects. Children build things, color, draw, paint, sculpt with clay, solve puzzles, and use manipulatives. Tuition adjustments are based on eligibility.

The FDC also offers special programs for newborns to three year olds and their parents. The program includes home visits, group activities at the center, and bi-monthly parent meetings.

The FDC is a division of the College of Education and is located on the campus of Governors State University.

For more information, visit www.govst.edu/children or call 708.235.7300.

GSU Social Work Honorees Inducted

GSU Public Relations Department

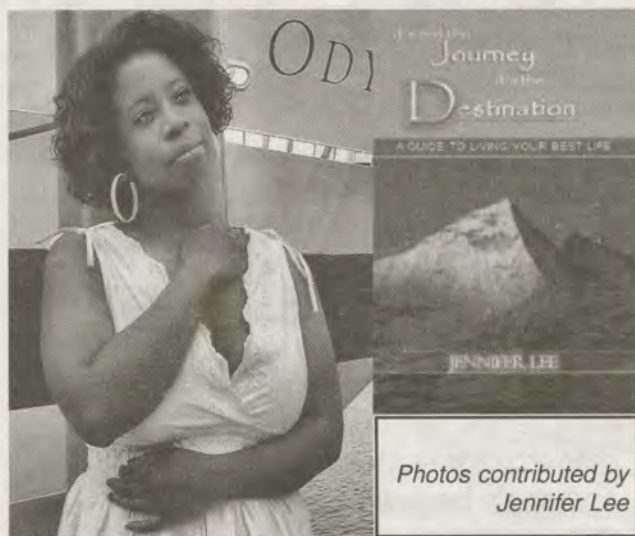
The Department of Social Work at Governors State University recently inducted new members in to the Omicron Beta Chapter of Phi Alpha Honor Society on Friday, April 24, 2009."

The Phi Alpha Honor Society provides promotes humanitarian goals and ideals and fosters high standards of education for social workers. Membership includes those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work.

To be considered for the Phi Alpha Honor Society at the undergraduate level, students must have completed eight semester hours of required social work courses and achieved a 3.25 grade point average in the social work courses. Graduate students must achieve a 3.5 grade point average in a social work program. All inductees must serve their community or the social work profession.

Social work students inducted include: Tammy D. Burris of Lombard, Tracy L. Cunningham of Tinley Park, Kathleen A. Keating of Tinley Park, Constance M. Vann of Joliet, Rachel M. Magruder of Bourbonnais, Fernando Rayas of Cicero, Sulah K. Buck of Plainfield, Miriam D. Harpaz of Glenview, Diane M. Moler of Park Forest, Erin P. Cohen of Country Club Hills, Faviola Graciano of Harvey, Latrice M. Taylor of Richton Park, Mary C. Busch of Oak Lawn, Cynthia A. Smith of Chicago, Leona Lindsey of Midlothian, Iris L. Williams of Hazel Crest, Charlotte R. Collins of Joliet, Linda G. Gonzalez of Chicago, and Teresa L. Illum of Kankakee.

GSU Student Publishes First Book



Photos contributed by
Jennifer Lee

By Sarah Silhan
Editor

GSU Student Jennifer Lee is up to more than just studying and writing papers. She is also writing books – and as of this year, getting them published. “It’s Not the Journey, It’s the Destination” hit newsstands a few months ago following a period of writing and going through the publication process.

However, Lee says she considers herself lucky since her book was picked up so quickly.

“After completing this book, I had already visualized the entire publishing process,” she said. “I had faith that it would be picked up right away by a publisher. So a few days after I had completed my book, I had started reading another book. In the opening pages, it listed the publisher, so I decided to call. I asked if they were looking for new authors and she responded yes and for me to forward a copy of my manuscript. Within days, I had a publisher and a contract. They took care of the editing, marketing, cover design, printing, etc.”

Lee says her personal experiences with some very challenging circumstances inspired her to write her story and share it with others.

“My life’s fatal distractions eventually led to my depression, my loss of faith, and my desire to give up,” Lee explained. “I have experienced, like many others a multitude of challenges, heartbreaks, and disappointments. What I realized during all of this suffering is that I, Jennifer, was the one creating the life I was living.”

She continued by saying that she allowed her challenges to get in the way of her goals.

“I was going through so much that I had forgotten about my ultimate destination, my goals, my dreams, my passions,” she said. “I had to take charge of what I was feeling, and the way I was thinking. I began applying the principles of faith, my determination to be successful, and my desire to feel better and do better to my life and I slowly began to see my life develop into what it is today. I am happier than I have ever been, and I have begun accomplishing goals that at one point was impossible. I took charge and made the impossible, possible. I had to realize that I am responsible for my own happiness, no one else, no more excuses.”

Lee felt that her optimism and ability to overcome challenges could possibly help others who were dealing with similar problems. It was then that she began writing the story, using the analogy of climbing the tallest mountain in the world and comparing it to conquering life’s expected and unexpected challenges.

In her book, she writes, “the closer you get to your dreams the more challenging life becomes. But with faith and determination you can conquer anything: the possibilities that exist with you lifetime are endless.”

Lee also openly discusses her failed marriage, career, and depression and how she was able to overcome the pain and turn tragedy into triumph.

“No matter what you are going through, remember there is a lesson being taught, use it to empower yourself and to mature into a better you,” she says. “The lesson and wisdom that you gain from the experience will help you to move closer to your destination. Mountaineers don’t just set out to conquer one mountain; the objective is to conquer them all, even the most challenging. Regardless of the dangers involved, they remain focused on their goal and accept the risks of the journey with nothing more than the destination in mind-standing on top of the world.”

Lee’s book can be purchased on amazon.com and also by visiting www.itsthedestination.com. The cost of the book is \$14.95. She says the book has been selling well and one of her goals is to get a copy of it into the GSU Library.

“I want people to know that their happiness, the love they have for themselves is far more important than anything else,” she says. “You only have one life to live, why not spend it loving yourself, being just as good to yourself as you are to others, fulfilling your own personal desires of the heart?”

She is currently working on other pieces including a nonfiction piece and another inspirational book.

Who’s Who at GSU?

Jose Reyes, GSU Admissions

By Michelle Hulett
Staff Writer

As the Admission Counselor, Recruiter, and Transfer Coordinator, Jose Reyes travels to various high schools, community colleges, universities, and other institutions to promote GSU programs. Speaking to prospective students, Reyes aims to help them understand more about the programs in which they are interested.

“As a transfer coordinator,” Reyes explains, “I work with our community college partners to design/update transfer guides to help their students have an easy transition to GSU.” As part of his duties as Admission Counselor, Reyes makes presentations to faculty and staff at community colleges to better inform them about GSU programs.

Reyes is also the chairperson of the Latino Achievement Scholarship Committee.

“When I was a GSU student I was a member of ALAS,” Reyes explains. “As a Latino, I am proud of my heritage and wanted to organize our Latino students to demonstrate our heritage on campus.”

Promoting cultural awareness and establishing a better academic and social environment is the key task of ALAS.

“We plan, organize, and host all of the Hispanic Heritage Month activities at GSU as well as other events throughout the academic year,” Reyes explained.

Latino GSU students, like many other students, face the challenge of balancing their multiple responsibilities. Reyes says ALAS aims to help Latino students in particular overcome any challenges that college can present.

“ALAS works very hard in helping our members develop long-lasting friendships and find opportunities for academic and professional development such as conferences, workshops, and networking,” he said.

The program is not limited to Latino students, however. All students are encouraged to get involved. Non-Latino students can help by making ALAS more diverse.

Reyes has been working at GSU for ten years but has been involved with the school since his days as a student.

“As a GSU student, I was approached to apply for a scholarship and then a job,” Reyes says. “I guess I got lucky since I got both!”

His work does not stop at GSU, though. Reyes is also part of community projects.

“I am part of several coalitions that do community outreach to the Latino community: Southland Hispanic Leadership Council, Prairie State College Hispanic Advisory Board, and Project Exito,” he said.

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‘Beschloss’ cont. from page 1

Finally, Beschloss spoke of what he believes makes a good leader and said that it’s difficult to tell how presidents like George W. Bush or Barack Obama will be judged in the future because it all depends on what happens in the future.

To illustrate his point, he said that President Truman was criticized and mocked in 1953 for saying that Richard Nixon was “full of manure.” However, Truman is now remembered for his Cold War strategies and the Marshall Plan.

“Things which were so important while in office become so trivial later on,” Beschloss explained. “Being a good leader means difficult decisions that may mean losing another election – or worse. George Washington faced leaving the presidency in the 1700s after making a treaty with the British that he knew the Americans would hate. He left the Presidency a very disliked man. But that’s what happens to Presidents. His decision ultimately saved America, and that’s what we remember now.”

Retiring Nursing Prof, Vietnam Vet Saluted at Ceremony



By James Muhammad
Contributing Writer

Constance Edwards' energy and compassion have served her well during a long nursing career, which took her from the frontlines of Vietnam to the classrooms of GSU.

Colleagues, family, friends and military personnel saluted the associate nursing professor, who is retiring June 30, during a May 22 ceremony that included a military color guard and remarks worthy of her three decades of continuous service to the university.

Edwards, 64, is the last nursing department faculty member who was at the university when the department first received accreditation in 1981. She served as department director from 1994 until 2000. She also is a retired Army colonel who served in Vietnam as a combat nurse.

"I feel like the new kid on the block now because the people who were here then are gone," Edwards reflected. "There have been a lot of changes at the university and in nursing."

Those changes include new buildings and increasing enrollment. At that time GSU was part of a six area university system managed by one Board of Governors, and tuition was about \$67 per credit hour, she said. The unique university was on a pass/fail grading system, there was a fireplace in the F Building, and all teachers were known simply as "university professor," Edwards said.

"That didn't bother me because I had enjoyed all kinds of titles," said Edwards, who graduated from Tuskegee University and the University of Colorado.

Born in Birmingham, Ala., and a product of the civil rights movement, Edwards has childhood memories of participating in protests held by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Freedom Riders. Once, she and a friend almost got pushed into a police paddy wagon with other adult protesters.

"As children, we would freeze ice cream and sell it to protesters so we could give the money to the Freedom Riders for gas money to get to the next city. In Birmingham, you were an activist whether you wanted to be or not," she recalled.

In those days, careers for women were limited to teaching, nursing or secretarial work. Edwards chose nursing.

After graduating from Tuskegee, Edwards served in Vietnam at an evacuation hospital. She was overseas when Dr. King was assassinated in 1968. She arrived at GSU in 1978 after teaching at the University of Illinois and the University of Chicago. GSU then was a destination school for students pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing, particularly for students at Chicago's community colleges who received their associate's degree in nursing and were interested in affordable avenues to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Ultimately, it was the conveniences and tranquil atmosphere at GSU that convinced Edwards to stay at the university.

"I was driving back and forth to Chicago," Edwards said. "Here, it was so much more relaxing. You'd see wildlife in the parking lot. I enjoy working with older students and having interdisciplinary colleagues in the same building."

"I'm a public health nurse and I like working with the whole health care delivery team. I found most of them here," she said.

It also helped that Edwards could bring her small children to school with her. They grew up in GSU's day care center, she said. Her best and worst experiences at the university both concerned the nursing school's attempts to become accredited — one unsuccessful and one successful.

Edwards also has seen changes in the nursing profession. She refers to today's declining number of professionals in the field as the "graying of nursing." There also is not the same level of

commitment in the profession today, she said.

"We felt like angels of mercy. With so many opportunities for women today, the new generation is demanding more money for service," she added.

Edwards said the military was her "saving grace," allowing her to make money while in college while also paying for her education. Her Vietnam experience has made her a valuable resource for students and her colleagues, and she's been featured in documentaries.

One instance caught on film was her reconnection with a soldier she treated in Vietnam. She never knew what the soldier looked like because his face had been blown off. Nevertheless, she was able to meet him in 1993 during the dedication of the Vietnam Women's War Memorial in Washington. The ABC television documentary of a later meeting with the man is titled "Front Runners."

Edwards still has home health care patients and she's very active in veterans' organizations. She hopes to get GSU involved as a hub for colleges who develop programs for soldiers suffering from post traumatic stress syndrome as they return from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We'll miss her as a role model, not only as a nursing faculty member, but the counsel she provides," said Nursing Department interim chair Nancy MacMullen. "We'll miss her knowledge of the university's history, her sense of humor and her southern drawl. She's made my experience at GSU enjoyable because she has that 'can do' Army spirit."

"Constance has seen a lot and been a lot of places," said Rochelle Crump, president of the National Women's Veterans United. "Though she has a lot of other responsibilities, she's very active with veterans. She's an inspiration."

Dr. Ami Wang, a former faculty member with Edwards in the pre-accreditation days, said, "I know Connie to have a big heart who advises students not to be content with mediocrity. She has been a mentor to me."

If Edwards' hope of helping soldiers with PTSD at GSU comes to fruition, you will still see her around mentoring and counseling soldiers as well as students.

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Olympics Come to GSU in 2016?

By Michelle Hulett
Staff Writer

Governors State University recently agreed to be a site for the 2016 Olympics if Chicago is chosen as the host city. In March of this year, the Olympic Committee, Chicago 2016, contacted GSU to discuss the possibility of GSU acting as the venue for indoor and outdoor shooting competitions.

The administration worked closely with the committee on substantive understandings and the creation of a preliminary agreement. According to Chicago 2016, Governors State University "is easily accessible to downtown Chicago via Metra rail and Interstate 57, making it a convenient venue for athletes and spectators if Chicago is chosen as Host City for the 2016 Games."

Luckily for students, this agreement does not mean a rise in tuition. GSU administration explains "all costs associated with construction of necessary facilities will be incurred by the Olympics."

A preliminary proposal states that the Olympic committee would construct new, on-campus facilities including a large structure to host the event, parking lots, and necessary roadway additions and improvements.

Eric Matanyi of the GSU Public Relations Department explains, "the university will work to ensure that all facilities coordinate with its 20 year site plan and GSU's strategic plan, Strategy 2015." Further, tentative agreements have been reached on proposals for the new indoor facility to remain permanently on campus for future use as Commencement/Conference Center.

Though the possibility of Olympic events being held at GSU may cause concern to future students, Matanyi explains "there will be no interruption of academic offerings."

More so, the Olympics would offer an excellent opportunity to showcase the south suburbs.

"Area businesses, including lodging and restaurants, may see significant increases in business during the events at GSU," Matanyi noted. It also means long-term improvements in parking and local roads.

"Governors State University looks forward to hosting Olympic events on our campus and integrating our academic programs with Olympic planning," says GSU President Elaine P. Maimon. "We are proud that Chicago 2016 now encompasses all of Chicagoland, including the south suburbs."

GSU's Main Entrance Gets a Face Lift

By James Muhammad
Contributing Writer

Governors State University's main entrance is getting a face lift that should be completed by August 31, according to Susan Rakstang, GSU's associate vice president for Facilities.

Phase 1 of the \$1.4 million project began June 1 and includes reconfiguration of the main entry, replacing the concrete roundabout with a landscaped roundabout, and roadway repaving.

"The work we're planning is pretty significant," Rakstang said. "We'll have a more gracious and pedestrian-friendly entrance. We'll have outdoor furniture, more landscaping and less concrete."

This phase of the work is being done by Aurora-based Abby Paving Co., which entered the lowest bid for the job, Rakstang said. It is part of a larger Deferred Maintenance Initiative that targets infrastructure and included the repaving of the school's main parking lots last year and rehabilitation of the swimming pool.

Phases II and III of the current work will include constructing a new parking lot for the Family Development Center building and street lighting. The main entrance is expected to be closed until mid-July and the roads will be closed until August.

Signage has been posted indicating alternate entry points. Pace bus pick-up and drop off has temporarily been relocated to the F-wing entry. GSU shuttle bus pick-up and drop off has been relocated to the north end of the "B" parking lot, according to the school's Web site.



Book Reviews



'The Namesake' a Keeper



By Michelle Hulett
Staff Writer

Jhumpa Lahiri's novel, "The Namesake" is a rare beauty. Centering around two generations of the Ganuli family, Lahiri gives the reader an intimate look into the immigrant experience and the American Dream.

As the story unfolds, we meet Ashima Ganguli, a young Bengalese bride recently immigrated to America with her husband, Ashoke. Ashima, isolated in a strange, new world gives birth to a baby boy. As required by Bengali customs, Ashima and Ashoke must wait for the child's grandmother to choose a name for the boy.

However, unable to leave the hospital without a name for the birth certificate, the couple is forced to decide on a name. Ashoke settles on the name of Gogol after his treasured Russian author whose book saved his life after a train accident in India.

When the grandmother dies, having never assigned a name to the boy, Ashoke and Ashima decide to keep the name Gogol for their son. Though terrified of raising a child "in a country where she is related to no one, where she knows so little, where her life seems so tentative and spare," Ashima and her husband begin to make their place in America.

As foreigners, the family begins to cautiously make their place in America. As they form a tight-knit community with new Bengali friends, their Calcutta and American cultures begin to merge.

As an immigrant, however, Ashima never quite feels like she belongs. She considers her situation as a "sort of lifelong pregnancy - a perpetual wait, a constant burden, a continuous feeling out of sorts."

Though born in America, Gogol also grows up feeling like an outsider. Unable to understand the full significance of his name, Gogol spends his youth breaking away from his roots. Embarrassed by his parents, Gogol completely dissociates himself from his heritage distancing himself both physically and emotionally from his family and instead immersing himself fully in American culture.

The story takes us through nearly four decades of the Ganguli family's experience in America. As Lahiri takes us along on the Ganguli's journey to find a balance between both Bengali and American culture we watch Gogol as he struggles to discover his identity and embrace his heritage.

In beautifully detailed prose, Lahiri explores themes of exile and identity through her intimate portrait of one family's process of assimilation to their new, multi-cultural lives. She teaches us the importance of family and culture, leading us through the challenges faced by immigrants. With this book, Lahiri gives us nothing short of a treasure.

'Extremely Loud' ... Extremely Well Done



By Michelle Hulett
Staff Writer

In "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," Jonathan Safran Foer explores the effects of death on nine-year-old Oskar and his family. The novel opens with the bright and comical young narrator, Oskar Schell on his way to bury his father, who died in the September 11, 2009 attacks in New York.

At nine-years-old, Oskar is intelligent and independent. He makes up inventions, designs jewelry, wears only white, and plays the tambourine. He also carries the secret of the five phone messages his father left on the day of the attack (of which not even his mother knows).

One day, Oskar finds a key hidden in his father's closet. It is in an envelope marked "Black". Determined to visit each of the Black households in the city, he cancels his French lessons and proceeds to make his way around the city hoping to solve the key's secret.

To provide another layer of narrative and context beyond the plot, the narration switches from Oskar's point of view to his grandparents' view throughout the novel. Each grandparent writes letters that provide another layer for the story.

Oskar's grandmother writes letters addressed to Oskar while Oskar's grandfather addresses his letters to Oskar's father. In his letters, Oskar's grandfather writes apologetic letters to his son explaining his reasons for returning to Germany, thereby never meeting his son. The survivor of the World War II bombing of Dresden, he becomes a mute.

Meanwhile, Oskar's grandmother explains her German childhood, how she came to marry his grandfather and their brief marriage.

Each of the characters in the story deals with their pain in their own way. Oskar's grandfather refuses to speak or to love; Oskar hides his self-inflicted bruises that help to distract from his emotional pain; Oskar's grandmother tries in vain to make her marriage work.

As Foer weaves the stories together, he takes the reader along on the character's individual and shared journey to heal.

Tackling such a heavy subject can be difficult and emotionally draining. Foer's novel, however, was an absolute joy to read. With his careful blend of humor and heartache, Foer guides the reader through the confusion and emotional turmoil of the characters and their struggle to connect.

Turning the last page, I felt a sort of loss at leaving the characters to whom I had grown so attached. Their story is one that I won't soon forget.

Sculpture Park Trip to Michigan



While the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park (NMSP) at Governors State University boasts of one of the most remarkable groups of artwork in our region, other sites in the Midwest also offer significant displays of contemporary sculpture. The NMSP invites you to explore these showcases of artwork during a weekend sculpture tour to Michigan on September 12 and 13.

The trip includes a study guide of the sites to be visited prepared by Dr. Nina Corazzo, holder of the Walter E. Bauer Chair of History at Valparaiso University. She will lead a tour of the collection in

the Grand Rapids Art Museum. Participants will also see a bronze pour demonstration at FireArts, the sculpture workshop established in South Bend, Indiana, by artist Tuck Langland.

Through special arrangement, a special pre-opening tour of the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, in Grand Rapids, will be lead by Joseph Becherer, Director of Sculpture and the Lena Meijer Professor of History at Aquinas College. The weekend trip concludes with a docent lead tour of the Krasl Art Center in St. Joseph, Michigan. Overnight accommodations at the Grand Amway Hotel in Grand Rapids include a cocktail reception and a presentation by Geoffrey Bates, Director and Curator of the NMSP.

The cost of the trip is only \$279. This fee covers bus transportation, breakfast and box lunch on Saturday, complimentary hors d'oeuvres at the cocktail reception, and all entry fees. A \$100 deposit is required, which is refundable through August 1. For more information or to register, visit www.govst.edu/sculpture, call (708) 534-4486, or email sculpture@govst.edu.

College of Health and Human Services: Winter 2009 Dean's List

The College of Health and Human Services recently recognized 118 undergraduate students who earned a 3.7 grade point average or higher during the Winter 2009 trimester.

"I am extremely proud of our students, who have truly brought their dedication, talent, and passion to their studies over the past trimester," said College of Health and Human Services Dean Linda Samson. "Having exhibited such aptitude as students, I'm certain they will turn out to be wonderful health and human service professionals, as well. Our College's mission is to 'Make Someone's Life Better.' These students are well-equipped to do just that."

Alsip	Brenda Allen
Samantha A. Dagenais	Jessica Bujanski
Bolingbrook	Zondra D. Davis
Tamara L. Smith	Kaitlin Dhooghe
Bourbonnais	Tanisha T. Gaines
Lora K. Hartman-Devine	Lindsey A. Good
Sherri Lynn Funk	Donna R. Gordon
Rachel M. Magruder	Tracey A. Jarosz
Karlie Peters	Prentice K. Johnson
Mary E. Rouleau	Sherron R. Johnson-Boyd
Tawana S. Williams	Cynthia A. King-Myers
Bradley	Martin R. Maxwell
Misty M. Fritz	Marissa B. McCormack
Jaclyn S. Hicks	Marshe L. Owens
Burbank	Julie L. Richardson
Sara M. VanByssum	Katerina Skiba
Calumet City	Latoya Y. Smith
Princess M. Ballard	Calia R. Tally
Vickie L. Pennington	Chicago Heights
Karole L. Smith	Sharon A. Colbert
Chicago	Latoria Langham
Sarah A. Adekola	Tracy Watkins

Alicia J. Worley
Chicago Ridge
Katarzyna M. Szarek
Country Club Hills
Chavahn L. Williams
Crete
Rebecca J. Gordon
Elk Grove Village
Sima J. Patel
Evergreen Park
Lara V. Savitskie
Flossmoor
Essence Fox
Marsha O. Sanders
Forest Park
Linda J. Arana
Frankfort
Jennifer L. Robinson
Ashely B. Rybarczyk
Karen A. Zybak
Glenwood
Kimberly A. Hall
Patti A. Schassburger
Harvey
Trevaughn Davis-Neal
Faviola Graciano
Leo W. Lavender
Irene Thomas
Hazel Crest
Reve A. Fisher
Hope Y. King
Homer Glen
Shannon L. Kraehmer
Homewood
Ruth A. Bartman
Brenda K. Dixon
Brenna M. Taylor
Joliet
Daniel G. Zelehovitis
Kankakee

Teresa L. Illum
Manteno
Tracy M. Aicher
Markham
Judy L. Marion
Martinton
Shandi L. Arseneau
Matteson
Bonita S. Allen
Jamie C. Brinton
Adontaus Chalmers
Sylette N. DeBois
Kathleen Jacobs-McLloyd
Rachael M. Muehlbauer
Juanita Sanders
Midlothian
Danielle M. Cythaml
Michelle S. Hazelip
Stephanie A. Misner
Eric L. Pistek, Jr.
Christina M. Thompson
Minooka
Sara L. Black
Mokena
Brianna E. Medema
Momence
Timothy J. Benton
Dana Marie Osborn
Heather R. Zelhart
New Lenox
Marisa A. Murray
Oak Forest
Kelly J. Malysa
Oak Lawn
Krystle B. Banzuela
Mar Francisco Enriquez
Ruaa S. Jaber
Kristina Paltanavicius
Orland Park
Stephanie Johnson

Jennifer L. Kehoe
Megan M. Paraday
Gianni P. Sansone
Joel Varghese
Palos Hills
Jennifer C. Potempa
Park Forest
Deborah A. Bashir
Sara A. Bednarcik
Monica F. Clanton
Stacey A. Deacon
Diane M. Moler
Lori A. Phillips
Gwendolyn Stone
Richton Park
Janell V. Bailey
Titania D. Stokes
Riverdale
Yvette Smith
Romeoville
Adela Alsabagh
South Holland
Lolita D. Caldwell
Shawn L. Perry-Coutain
Carmen Tibbs
Thornton
Jennifer A. Christie
Tinley Park
Kathleen A. Keating
Sherri L. Rickerson
Ed Allen E. Roska
University Park
Rhonda S. Campbell
Babette Thornton
Watseka
Janella V. Schroeder
Westmont
Sharon King
Wilmington
Lynn M. Christi

Bellydancing at GSU?



Photos Courtesy of
www.MissTaj.com

By Homer Alexander Talbert III
Contributing Writer

Perhaps it has never occurred to you, but you can Bellydance your way to increased balance and stress reduction. Miss Taj in her most calm and melodious voice says, "You Can!"

Miss Taj says, "It is important to have some kind of ritualistic dance in your life, be it salsa, stepping, ballet or beyond." Ritualistic may not be the word for you, but throughout the week, she suggest you take a moment and open the door to who you are.

Taj explains her bellydancing in various forms, "Sensuality" for instance. Her signature Sensuality Training reaches the "Feminine Divine"; that innate quality which global women possess; she should know because she has traveled extensively.

"Sensuality uncovers a high intuition which allows a positive chameleon-like persona. Training the senses involves a system of exercise movements designed especially for a woman's

body," says Taj. Women can benefit from sensuality maintenance as a routine in personal development that allows her to comfortably adjust to the changes that life presents.

Women, everyday women, you know the ones; they are the originators of creation, the bedrock of societies, the altruist who cares for her children, husband, mother, father, brothers, sisters and the neighbors children. Yet, when does one of those "Everyday's" come strictly for her?

Some of GSUs students found out. They made their way to the recreation center on Wednesdays at noon for the past six weeks and enjoyed an hour of being sensuous women. They were introduced to Classical Egyptian Bellydance which produces and increase in self-esteem, better posture and deepened inner peace.

Miss Taj says "when you step into one of my serene studios, it is always shoeless, with the exception of the Brazilian Samba class. The environment I like to present to women is such that ...they feel like the outside world, is outside!!"

It reminded this reporter of such a place: "Ashram" where spiritualist from any clime and philosophy go to unwind. You can unwind and rewind with Miss Taj in Evanston, The Loop, Beverly Arts Center and Riverwest. Miss Taj offers lessons and workshops at any of the above locations. Go online to MissTaj.com and see what works for our schedule.

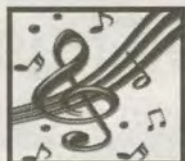
If you are reading this article, contact Vanessa Newby of GSU to start this sensuous journey. For details -www.MissTaj.com

H1N1 Type A Flu Hotline

Persons with either suspected or confirmed
H1N1 Type A Flu
(commonly referred to as Swine Flu)
are asked to report their condition
in a message on the confidential hotline.

708.235.2827
or
extension 2827.

The GSU Swine Flu Hotline enables the university to evaluate facts,
respond appropriately, and communicate actions
as needed to the campus community.
The purpose of the hotline is for information collection only.
Information is submitted voluntarily and will be used confidentially



Music Reviews



Wolf Parade's 'Apologies to the Queen Mary': Songs You Can Really Sink Your Teeth Into

By Amy Beth Porter
Contributing Writer



Wolf Parade was first discovered in 2003 when they opened for Arcade Fire. Critically compared to Modest Mouse, these Canadians from Montreal went through much soul-searching, frantic performance schedules, and makeshift revisions to their line-up.

As it now stands, the band consists of Spencer King (vocals and keyboard), Dan Boeckner (vocals and guitar), Arlen Thompson (drums), Hadji Bakara (sound manipulation and synthesizer), and Dante DeCaro (2nd guitar, bass, and percussion).

By their own account, Wolf Parade was formed when a self-proclaimed "mumbler" joined forces with a guy who likes to beat on his drums. In a superficial sense, this sums up their sound neatly.

Delving deeper, however, will reveal an uncompromising poignancy to their delivery, self-actualized words, and a rhythm that mirrors the pressure and release of emotion. Not content to wallow in beautiful misery, however, the album also releases abrupt bursts of energy and unexpected twists and turns.

In some inexplicable way, Wolf Parade seems to borrow from the spiritual and moral values of other cultures and times. If the parting sentiments of the final track on this album are any indication, this band has no intention of falling to the nebulous moodiness of its themes, which oddly return again and again to ghosts and fires.

The opening track, "You Are a Runner and I am my Father's Son", is as cryptic a song as one could imagine, but the relationship depicted between father and son rings universal: "I'll draw three figures on your heart/One of them will be me as a boy/One of them will be me/One of them will be me watching you run."

There is almost a Native American feel to this song due to its tribal drum work and inherent secrecy. Another significant track on the album is "Grounds for Divorce", which sounds simultaneously like the recognition of chaos and the desire to break free of it.

"Same Ghost Every Night" is a ballad to a foregone relationship and possibly a plea for release from the memory. The second half of the album, however, is when the real magic begins.

Beginning with "Shine a Light", one of their sole commercial releases, momentum is finally gained. "It's a Curse" is an unexpected gem and a lyrical masterpiece: "I walked five whole minutes to the dark edge of town/I took a long, long look at nothing and turned back around." As the final track, "This Heart's on Fire" culminates and intensifies into a celebration of life.

Apologies to the Queen Mary reflects just how seriously this band takes their lyrics and percussion, which are the mainstays of their sound.

In fact, the manic punctuations of this album may be due to the fact that the band was formed in two weeks and made to successfully put together their first album in the same amount of time.

Members maintain a breakneck touring schedule, fueled, so they say, by alcohol and restless nights. Given their impromptu formation and crazed lifestyle, there is great wisdom in this union, the kind noted in bands that have been together for decades.

Koko Taylor: The Queen of the Blues Remembered Fondly

By Amy Beth Porter
Contributing Writer



Chicago blues legend Koko Taylor (reportedly nicknamed for her penchant for chocolate) is probably best known for her classic blues standards, "Wang Dang Doodle", "I Got What it Takes", and "I'm a Woman". Her 2007 release, *Old School*, while strongly reminiscent of the great Bessie Smith (see *Sweet Little Angel*, for prime example) for its confrontational and take-no-prisoners

approach, is anything but retro.

The Grammy award winner was born in Memphis in 1928 but gravitated toward the Chicago blues scene in the nick of time in 1952. She would immerse herself in the richness of Windy City's blues culture for ten years before a friend encouraged her to take the stage.

Prolific throughout her forty-year career, she was nominated for a total of eight Grammys and inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame, enduring 70 shows annually even at the end of her life, which was regrettably recent. Koko Taylor died near her home in Country Club Hills following complications from surgery this year in early June.

Her brand of blues embodied a less self-pitying version of piano and brass-infused catharsis that sought to reach out and empower more than ruefully look within.

The first track on *Old School*, "Piece of Man", is a lusty anthem where it is playfully determined that it is better to have a piece of man "than no man at all." Black Rat picks up the tempo and showcases the growly and gravelly contours of Taylor's voice.

Slow and drowsy, "Money is the Name of the Game" seems to suggest that the game is also exhausting and empty. "Better Watch Your Step" warns a rejecting lover that "you done messed up a good thing" but that "I won't be your puppet no more."

"Bad Avenue" is ominous but beautiful, the perfect song for stormy skies and moods. In "Don't Go No Further", Taylor quips to a lover that if "you need fish, go to the sea," but don't mistake her for part of his gaming pond.

The next two songs, "All Your Love" and "Hard Pill to Swallow", sound very similar to one another, but "Young Fashioned Ways" ends the album with the reluctant realization that she should settle down because she is growing old, something she obviously had no intention of doing in real life.

March 3 was named Koko Taylor Day in Chicago by Mayor Richard Daley on the same day that she won a Lifetime Achievement award, not far from the tiny south side bars that first caught on to her sound. While a listing of her accolades, honors, and recognition would span many pages, Koko Taylor remained reverent toward her humble Memphis roots, citing that her only impetus to sing was the hope of brightening one person's day at a time.

Solutions for Crossword & Sudoku found on page 8.

5	3	8	7	4	6	9	2	1
7	4	1	3	2	9	6	8	5
6	9	2	8	5	1	4	3	7
4	6	7	1	8	2	5	9	3
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the PHOENIX
What's Up

8

07 | 02 | 09

Crossword & Sudoku: solutions on page 7

Across

1. Celestial body
5. Circuit
8. Hard kind of stone
13. Field sport
14. Female horse
15. Spooky
16. Remove from office
17. Pivot
18. Used to control a horse
19. Theatrical group
21. Molecule
23. Unit of play in tennis
24. Bird shelter
26. Female sheep
27. Solemn
29. Reclamation
34. Assistance
35. Snare
37. Clan
38. Baby bed
40. Projecting bay window
43. Sweet pulpy tropical fruit
44. Summarize
46. Way out
48. Regurgitated food of a ruminant
49. Put into the care of someone
52. Talisman
54. Jurisprudence
55. Excavation
56. Globe
59. A turn made in skiing
61. Bid
65. Herbaceous plant
67. Pleasant
69. Donate
70. Distribute
71. Trampled

Down

1. Blemish
2. Travel
3. In addition
4. Corpulent
5. Slack
6. Song for solo voice
7. Annoy persistently
8. Agitation
9. Sheltered side
10. Part of the eye
11. Value of Roman IX

12. Trial
14. Artist of consummate skill
20. Vegetable matter, can be used as fuel
22. Be obliged to pay
25. Rend
27. Temptress
28. Decree
30. Epoch
31. Flinch
32. Approximately
33. Give temporarily
34. Unit of area
36. Pastry item
39. Exclude

41. Set of evaluating questions
42. Restricted
45. Throb
50. Was seated
51. A score in number
53. Continuance in time
56. Ellipse
57. Irritate
58. Fearless and daring
60. Morass
62. Desperate
63. At any time
64. Part of a woodwind instrument
66. Captain's journal
68. Swindle

72. Large woody plant
73. Shelf
74. Hankering
75. Group of animals

Happenings

What's Going on at GSU?

Compiled by Sarah Silhan
Editor

Independence Day Closure

GSU will be closed Friday, July 3 in honor of Independence Day! The library and all university offices will reopen Monday, July 6.

Alternative Teacher Certification Information Session

Monday, July 6, 6-7 p.m.
Hall of Honors

Learn how to earn elementary teacher certification while receiving a salary and securing a teaching position through Governors State University's Alternative Certification Program.

This program is open to college graduates with five years work experience after receiving a bachelor's degree. The application deadline for the Alternative Certification program, beginning Spring 2010, is December 15, 2009. For more information, call (708) 534-4399 or visit www.govst.edu/altcert.

Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Tours



July 5, Aug. 16 – North Section Tour, 2 p.m.

July 19, Aug. 16 – South Section Tour, 2 p.m.

Free guided tours of the park Tours last from one and a half to two hours. Visitors are asked to gather on the patio outside the Hall of Governors. Comfortable footwear is recommended as there is extensive walking and occasionally the paths are uneven. Visit www.govst.edu/sculpture or call (708) 534-4486 for more information.

"Cinderella" at CPA

Thursday, July 23, 11 a.m.
Center for Performing Arts
This version of "Cinderella" adds some twists to the often-told fable. Everyone is attending the Royal Sweetheart Ball except for Cinderella whose feet are such an unusual size there are no shoes to fit them. With the help of a fairy godmother, a little sword fighting, and some sensible footwear, a happy ending is in sight. This adaptation appeals to both boys and girls and is full of audience interaction. Tickets are only \$7 each for groups of 20 or more and \$9 each for individuals. For more information or to purchase tickets, call The Center box office at (708) 235-2222 or visit www.centertickets.net.

For more GSU news and events, visit www.govst.edu/gsuview/.

If you wish to
advertise in the Phoenix,
please call Business Manager,
Sylvia McGhee
at 708-534-3068,
or e-mail her at phoenixad@govst.edu

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7		4				2	
	8		9				
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The Phoenix welcomes letters to the editor and/or editorials. Letters can be submitted to phoenix@govst.edu. Letters may be edited for space or content and must include your name and a contact number or email address by which you can be reached.